



The Personal Statement Masterclass

Admissions at the University of Lincoln say...

'We look for applicants who demonstrate a depth of knowledge and passion for their chosen subject'

This should be a theme running throughout your personal statement, wherever you are applying. Note – you should use good English, avoid abbreviations, over complicated language and no exaggerations!

This template will either help you to start writing or support you with early drafts – don't expect to write it all in one go. As you consider each section, think 'ABC':

A – Activity – What activity / task / experience you have had

B – Benefit – what skills or knowledge did you gain?

C – How does it relate to / will support you on the course and/or university life?

Introduction

Explain your motivation for studying the subject.

You will need to provide a brief but convincing explanation as to why you want to study your subject at university. This should capture the reader's interest straight away, so they are compelled to read on. Here are some suggestions of how you could start your statement.

About the course:

What was my personal trigger? (Why are you applying for the course (s)?) This could be for a career, your keenness to explore the subject further for example.

What got you interested in the subject? You should **evidence** that you are aware of what is required and what you will cover on the course (tip – look at the modules on the university website to help you link to them, this will demonstrate your research and interest).

May be your trigger was a trip, a mentor or personal circumstance for instance?

What makes you suitable for the course? Tell us about particular skills / experiences you have which will help you succeed on the course.



Have you taken part in activities that further show your interest in the subject? (This could be volunteering for example).

Remember to use 'ABC' (above) to fully reflect on your experiences.

Academic Skills / Achievements / Interests

This section is to help you talk about **how** your current or previous studies link to your course of choice. These should be naturally occurring and not forced so as to avoid vagueness and misunderstanding. **You need to demonstrate your understanding of how your current studies can specifically help your chosen degree course.**

| A Level subject / BTEC / T LEVEL / IB etc | Relevant skills developed | What interests you particularly? Why? | Any particular strength in this subject? Is it your favourite subject? Why? |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Subject (or topic/module) 1 | | | |
| Subject (or topic/module) 2 | | | |
| Subject (or topic/module) 3 | | | |
| Subject (or topic/module) 4 | | | |



Relevant work experience (Vocational Skills and Experience)

Use the table to note work experience. This is particularly important if it relates to your course. Highlight links between your skills and experiences gained, to your chosen course.

| | Details – what you did | What did you Learn? | How it links to the course? |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Paid employment | | | |
| Internships | | | |
| Community activities | | | |
| Voluntary work experience | | | |
| Other | | | |

Other Considerations – hobbies and interests

Consider other achievements you are proud of – have you held positions of responsibility? What hobbies do you have that reflect your personality and skills? Again, try and make connections with the course. What else have you done that shows you are interested in the subject?

| | Details | What did you learn? |
|----------------|---------|---------------------|
| Competitions | | |
| Awards | | |
| Published work | | |
| Hobbies | | |
| Other | | |

Looking ahead

What are my career plans? How might academic study further my plans? What career aspirations do you have? How does your course relate to your future goals?



Mature student

Tell us about your journey since finishing education, do you have work experience (paid or not – give details). Use this to provide additional evidence to support your application.

Conclusion

This should be an easy once you've written the rest. Finish with a one- or two-line summary of why you are a suitable candidate -convinces the tutor of how much you are looking forward to going to university.

Personal statement checklist

| | |
|---|--|
| Does my introduction hold the reader's attention? | |
| It is clear why I have chosen my course? | |
| I have demonstrated, at least once that I know what the course involves (look at the modules online to help you) | |
| I have talked about my reading around the subject and linked it to my course | |
| I have shown the skills I have developed through my extra-curricular and in-school activities? (and related them to the course or university life) | |
| I have given an indication of my plans beyond university. | |
| I have proofread and checked my sentences are not too short or too long and my grammar and spelling is correct Ask your teacher to check this for you too | |
| I have backed up everything I have said with evidence/examples - Remember ABC! | |
| Am I positive throughout? | |
| I have a conclusion that briefly summarises what I have said? | |

Other things to consider:

Interested in scholarships and bursaries? Each year we welcome students from a diverse range of backgrounds from all over the world and we offer a variety of scholarships and bursaries which can provide extra financial assistance with the costs of study to eligible students. Check them out here: www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/studywithus/scholarshipsandbursaries/

Do you need further advice? Our Lincoln On Demand platform has lots of helpful videos on writing your personal statement including top tips from current university students. Check out these and more here: www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/lincoln-on-demand/

Want to dive into a topic studied at university? Try our 'bitesize' masterclasses in a range of subjects. These are great to add to personal statements. Available here: www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/virtualclassroom/